Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /067 R

DRAFTED BY COM: OIFI:FBP:MARTIN BERGER
APPROVED BY EB/OCA/CM/JJREILLY
COMMERCE/OIFI/FBP/JCWAGNER
TREAS;RY/MFEINBERG
ICC/JCHANNING
EUR/RPE/RLAMANTIA

-----047431 101912Z /40

R 100129Z SEP 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS STATE 217103

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BTIO, GW

SUBJECT: REVERSE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY: WAHL TOURISTIC

REF: STUTTGART 1150 AND 1423

FOLLOWING REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL ARE BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION (ICC) AND INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS). WAHL CAN OBTAIN A PERTINENT RULING APPLICABLE TO ITS CASE FROM EACH AGENCY BY SUBMITTING COMPLETE DETAILS TO COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224 AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF OPERATIONS, INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20423.

RE QUESTION A - ARE THERE LEGAL OR OTHER OBSTACLES FOR A UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. FIRM REGISTERING AND OPERATING BUSSES LEASED FROM GERMAN FIRM? ANSWER - NO, IF BUSSES MEET ;.S. OPERATING STANDARDS. IF THE ARRANGEMENT INVOLVES MORE THAN LEASING, SU:CH AS A PARTNERSHIP OR JOINT VENTURE, THEN FURTHER DETAILS OF OPERATION WOULD BE NEEDED FOR A DEFINITE ANSWER. ALSO, THE LESSOR GERMAN FIRM WHICH IS MARKETING TOURS IN THE U.S. MAY NEED A BROKERS LICENSE FROM ICC DEPENDING UPON

HOW IT CONDUCTS ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.

RE QUESTION B. WOULD GERMAN FIRM BE LIABLE FOR ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET OR OTHER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS UNDER THE INCOME TAX TREATY WITH GERMANY? ANSWER- A GERMAN FRIM HAVING NO PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT IN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT SUBJECT TO U.S. INCOME TAXES ON ITS INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROFITS. (SEE ARTICLE II (C) OF U.S. GERMAN DOUBLE TAXATION PREVENTION TREATY, AS AMENDED TIAS 5920). NOR WOULD THE GERMAN FIRM BE SUBJECT TO U.S. INCOME TAX ON PAYMENTS RECEIVED FOR THE USE OF EQUIPMENT IN THE U.S. TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH PAYMENT DID NOT EXCEED THOSE WHICH WOULD BE AGREED UPON IN AN ARMS LENGTH RELATIONSHIP (SEE ARTICLE VII OF TREATY AS AMENDED, TIAS 5920. TO AVOID WITHHOLDING OF INCOME TAX AT THE SOURCE OF PAYMENT, WHERE THE TREATY PROVIDES FOR EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX, THE GERMAN RECIPIENT SHOULD FILE WITH THE LESSEE A LETTER IN DUPLICATE CLAIMING SUCH EXEMPTION. ACCORDINGLY, IF THE GERMAN FIRM HAS NO PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND HAS ONLY LEASING INCOME FROM THE USE OF ITS INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, IT DOES NOT HAVE TO FILE ANY BALANCE SHEET OR OTHER OPERATING STATE-MENTS OF INCOME WITH THE IRS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Concepts: n/a

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 10-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am **Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE217103
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: OIFI:FBP:MARTIN BERGER

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D770329-0299

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770977/aaaacnfn.tel

Line Count: 85 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 65eb0d49-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN COME

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STUTTGART 1150

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1317730 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: REVERSE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY: WAHL TOURISTIC

TAGS: BTIO, GE To: STUTTGART Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65eb0d49-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009